

Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 3666), making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REQUEST TO LIMIT FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3666, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 3666 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 456, the bill be considered as read; and no amendment be in order except for the following amendments, which shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment or to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole, and shall be debatable for the time specified, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and a Member opposed:

An amendment offered by Mr. KOBLE for 60 minutes;

An amendment offered by Mr. GUTKNECHT for 20 minutes;

An amendment offered by Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas for 10 minutes;

An amendment offered by Mr. KINGSTON for 10 minutes;

An amendment offered by Mr. MARKEY for 40 minutes;

An amendment offered by Mr. ROEMER for 20 minutes;

An amendment offered by Mr. WELLER for 10 minutes; and

An amendment offered by Mr. ORTON for 10 minutes.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objections to the request of the gentleman from California?

□ 1730

Mr. BOEHLERT. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, how do we address the Boehlert amendment, which will serve as a substitute for the Markey amendment?

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BOEHLERT. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it would not be in order.

If I could verbalize a minor little amendment to this list, at the point of the Markey amendment, with the exception of one amendment to the Markey amendment, within the time limit of 40 minutes by Mr. BOEHLERT.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOEHNER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS].

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I will give the gentleman the time, if he would like. What the gentleman wants to do is eliminate all these limitations on time in order not to have this amendment come forward. If we eliminate all the limitations on time, surely we will get there eventually and the amendment will come forward anyway.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to agree to a unanimous-consent request which makes an amendment to the Markey amendment, being MARKEY, when the amendment has not even been shared with MARKEY as a way of ensuring that the unanimous-consent request could be done in an amicable way and in a bipartisan fashion seeking to resolve the issue. So I would ask if the gentleman could withhold briefly and the gentleman from New York perhaps could share the amendment since the Markey amendment is already well known.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I would say the gentleman, I think, makes a very important point. And I frankly would love to see the amendment to the Markey amendment myself. Therefore, we are going to withhold on this list until that kind of courtesy is shown and we will return to this request for unanimous consent at another time.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield under his reservation of objection, if we have the current iteration of the Markey amendment, it is a movable target. There have been so many adjustments in the past 24 hours, I am not sure what we are talking about in terms of the Markey amendment. I would be glad to share my amendment.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest we come back to this.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California withdraws his unanimous-consent request.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 456 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3666.

□ 1733

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3666) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending Sep-

tember 30, 1997, and for other purposes, with Mr. COMBEST in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 7 offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BENTSEN] had been disposed of bill.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KOLBE

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. KOLBE: Strike Section 421 of the bill.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, before I proceed, I ask unanimous consent that, while they are trying to work out the issue on the other amendments, that, the gentleman from Wisconsin, [Mr. OBEY] is in agreement, that all debate on this amendment and all amendments thereto be limited to 60 minutes, with the time equally divided between myself and the gentleman from Minnesota. That is pursuant, I might add, to the agreement that we had agreed to earlier in the larger unanimous consent.

The Chairman. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I object.

The CHAIRMAN. Objection is heard.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, let me begin by laying out the background of this case. A few months ago, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, which is a part of the National Science Foundation, began to consider bids for a new supercomputer. They had been using a Cray computer, and they went through the normal procurement process, the conclusion of which was a bid an unusual bid in the amount of money that was set—\$35 million—won by NEC. There is no dispute over the amount of dollars of this procurement. It is \$35 million. But to continue, in the RFP that was proposed, the question was posed—what could you do for \$35 million? Clearly the bid proposal from NEC, the Japanese company that makes supercomputers, was the best offer.

Following that decision or that initial bid proposal, this information was conveyed to the White House. It was also conveyed to the Department of Commerce.

The Department of Commerce then subsequently wrote a letter to the National Science Foundation in which they said they had investigated the matter and made a preliminary decision that there was clear dumping here. That is, NEC was selling this computer or the software for this computer, at well below cost.

As a result of that letter, even though it was simply a letter and nothing more, remember no formal investigation has ever been conducted into allegations of dumping, language was added in the subcommittee and retained by the full committee, which